

September 27, 2007 Minutes

Enfield Heritage Commission

The Enfield Heritage commission met Thursday, September 27 at 5:30 PM in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance were: Marjorie Carr, Mary Ann Hagen, Celie Aufiero, Steve Schneider, Rebecca Stewart, and Meredith Smith, Chair.

Meredith Smith said she would get the request for funding of the National Register application to the Town Manager in the next couple of days. All the necessary tax information has been gathered on the eight properties, which will be used for comparison examples of increased tax revenues on rehabilitated properties. Smith has also photographed the eight properties which are: Copeland Block, Hewitt House, Mill Houses, Laundromat (former depot), Red Roof Gallery, Fogg's Hardware, Provost House, 78 Main Street.

Rebecca Stewart reported that the preservation information from the Vermont theater drop conservator had not yet been received but that she expected it very soon. Stewart said the largest drop (or curtain) had been in Whitney Hall at one time and would be returned there when the restoration information was complete.

Meredith Smith brought up the issue of design assistance to property owners in the historic village district. The property at the corner of Main & High Street has recently changed hands and Smith wondered if the Heritage commission could offer some design guidance to the new owner. No conclusion was reached on this issue.

The Commission held an extensive discussion of stone walls and what could be done to encourage the preservation of these historic treasures. Smith presented information from the NH Preservation Alliance, which included the RSA's governing destruction or dismantling of stone walls. All agreed that the Commission should focus on educating the public about our local treasures, stonewalls, and discourage any demolition of these walls. A stone wall tour was even suggested as a possible event to focus on Enfield's beautiful stone walls.

Marjorie Carr reported that Allen Strickland had called her concerning a collapsed stone wall (due to a blocked culvert) at the Shaker Feast Ground. Mary Ann Hagen said she had walked to the Feast Ground but was unable to find the stonewall Strickland had referred to.

Mary Ann Hagen reported on the many activities at the Enfield Shaker Museum. The Harvest Festival will be held on October 7, an event which brings many tourists to Enfield and the Museum. There will be a Shaker Dinner on October 27 featuring Chef Betsy Oppeneer. A new furnace is being installed in the Great Stone Dwelling, funded with donations from the Capital Fund Drive. It is expected that this new furnace will help to reduce the winter heating costs.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Smith, Chair